

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 35 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8-10, 14 and 20 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to include claim 13. Claims 8-10 have been amended to maintain consistency of claim language with amended claim 1. Claims 14 and 20 have been amended to change the dependencies from cancelled claim 13 to independent claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Tucker for indicating that claims 23-31, 33, 34 and 36 are allowable and that claims 13-20 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Objections

Claims 12 was rejected under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form. The rejection of claim 12 has been obviated by appropriate amendment. As amended, independent claim 1 recites that R⁵ in the phosphate ester of formula (II) is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a hydrocarbyl group, and a polyoxyalkylated alcohol. Claim 12 recites that the phosphate ester is poly(oxy-1,2-ethandiyl) tridecyl hydroxy phosphate, which is a species of the generic phosphate ester recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 12 further limits the subject matter of claim 1, from which it depends, and is in proper dependent form. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12, 21, 22, 32 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Martin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,339,349). The Office Action asserts that Martin et al. discloses a corrosion inhibitor containing a quaternary amine and a branched polyalkoxylated phosphate ester. The Office Action further asserts that it would be obvious to combine the polyalkoxylated phosphate ester with a quaternary amine that does not contain aromatic groups, and that this combination would provide the composition and method as recited in independent claims 1 and 35.

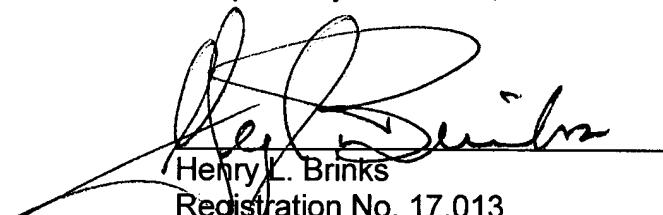
The rejection of the claims over Martin et al. has been obviated by appropriate amendment. Independent claim 35 has been cancelled. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the thiocarbonyl compound that was recited in claim 13. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that R¹, R², R³, R⁴ are independently a hydrocarbyl group, and that R⁵ can be hydrogen, a hydrocarbyl group, or a polyoxyalkylated alcohol. Thus, R¹ through R⁷ in formulas (I) and (II) of claim 1 are in the form as recited in the originally filed claims.

Martin et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest a corrosion inhibitor comprising a quaternary ammonium compound, a phosphate ester, and a thiocarbonyl compound. In addition, the Martin et al. reference cited in the Office Action of March 12, 2003, U.S. Pat. No. 5,393,464) does not disclose, teach or suggest a corrosion inhibitor comprising a quaternary ammonium compound, a phosphate ester, and a thiocarbonyl compound. Accordingly amended claim 1, and claims 2-12, 21, 22 and 32 which depend from claim 1, are not obvious over either of the cited Martin et al. references, as the references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest each and every element of the claims. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In conclusion, all of the grounds raised in the present Office Action for rejecting the application are believed to be overcome or rendered moot based on the remarks above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in form for allowance, and such action is requested in due course. Should the Examiner feel a discussion would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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